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PROGRAM

CBS Evening News

STATION

WDVM TV

CBS Network

DATE

April 13, 1982

7:00 PM

CITY

Washington, DC

SUBJECT

Soviet Involvement in Crisis

DAN RATHER: Washington officials say the Soviet Union is giving Argentina intelligence on the advancing British armada. The officals say the Soviets are getting their data from their satellites and from intercepts of British communications. As it is, the British fleet faces a formidable task.

BILL LYNCH: Even with its battle fleets still thousands of miles away, Britain controls the sea for 200 miles around the Falklands. At least three of the Royal Navy's nuclear-powered, swift, sure attack submarines and one diesel-powered sub are reportedly lurking in the area. With Tigerfish torpedoes and enough speed to outrun destroyers, they are potent weapons.

Argentina is protecting its small hand-me-down navy by keeping its warships well away from the Falklands. However, Argentina commands the air and is beefing up its occupation force with regular cargo flights.

Retired U.S. Navy Admiral Stansfield Turner, the former CIA Director, sees real problems for the British blockade.

STANSFIELD TURNER: If we place British merchants -destroyers all around the Falklands, they're easily going to be under
attack from airpower based in Southern Argentina. A final approach
is simply to use your submarines. But a submarine can't risk surfacing, questioning a ship, warning it, telling it to go somewhere
else. If it is a case of a submarine, it's got to sink it first off.
That's escalating the war a good bit.

LYNCH: If diplomacy fails, the main British fleet has a risky job trying to regain the islands. It is greatly out-numbered

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in the air. Argentina's one aging aircraft carrier can launch 14 A-4 bombers. a squadron of Mirage interceptors is now based at the Falklands' one airfield. And Argentina has soe 200 other combat planes at mainland bases. The British fleet must rely on a total of 16 Harrier jump jets on its two carriers, plus an assortment of armed helicopters, to protect its surface vessels and make any air attacks.

Three thousand British Marines are practicing for a possible landing in the Falklands. But without the elements of surprise or overwhelming firepower, Turner predicts heavy casualties.

TURNER: There are very few good landing beaches. These are rocky terrains that are generally steep down to the water. Secondly, of course, he's ready. He knows you're coming. Surprise will be difficult to achieve. If you use your firepower, you may well endanger some of those 1800 British residents in these islands that the fleet is coming to protect. So it's a tough task for this British admiral.

LYNCH: To complicate the military picture, the Pentagon today reported five Soviet naval vessels in the South Atlantic. U.S. officials see no evidence so far the Russians are headed for the Falklands, but they'll continue to watch them.